

IMSA INTERNSHIP

BUSINESS PROJECT FINAL REPORT

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#122159

SALUTING SUCCESS - BENEFITS AND JOBS FOR VETERANS

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Family First Wealth Management LLC
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Executive Summary

Throughout this internship, I, Abhi Pasupula, have worked with my internship mentor, Barry Federici, in order to help him start up a new service. This service is targeted specifically towards veterans and their paths in their lives after they retire from the military. The service is split up into two categories, those being Jobs and Veteran Benefits. Jobs entailed creating and implement a job board into our website for retired veterans to search for. Veteran benefits showcase a list of benefits that veterans are eligible for, divided up by Federal Benefits, State Benefits, Local Benefits, and a page for all available benefits.

For the Job Board page on the website, we got into contact with a job board service known as Hiring Opps and spent many days working through the features and seeing which features would serve us the best for the website. In addition, we set up a Sandbox so that we could physically see the service in action.

The benefits required more menial work, such as compiling the list of total benefits and categorizing them into states with links that lead to the state Veteran Benefits commission for more information. Once organized, the benefits were organized into 4 sections, each section having its own page on the website.

Both of these websites were connected back to the original website, which served as a homepage for all the services. The homepage also had services to meet with my mentor, Mr. Federici. Working on both of these websites and services really opened my eyes to the professional world of Software Development, where there was so much more apart from just programming. Similar to this internship, the real world will require me to be able to voice my thoughts as well as put them down on paper and be able to explain them well to others, something that I believe this internship set me up for very well.

Business Context

For this internship, I was under my mentor, Barry Federici, and his company, Family First Wealth Management LLC. This company is a business-oriented company, that provides face-to-face services to help with managing money and investments in the stock market world. This business mainly falls under the Business industry.

However, most of the work that I was tasked with for this internship fell under a new company yet to be created, named Saluting Success, with two branches, Saluting Jobs and Saluting Benefits. These companies were primarily created to aid the retiring/retired veterans. The two services for this website are a job board for retired veterans to find jobs, and lists of benefits by state and all federal-listed benefits for ease of access for veterans. This falls under the Military & Government industry and is currently non-profit.

Business Project Descriptions

Throughout my internship, one of the main focuses was developing the working website and have it available for use with content, as well as feasible information that will attract the reader. The first target was Saluting Benefits, the website of which provided information for veterans about benefits that they were entitled to, all in one place. The purpose of this website was to simplify the search for benefits, since many of the benefits are spread out all across the internet, and having them all in one place would save many veterans their valuable time. Each week, I used a compiled list of benefits to import links into the website, also using CSS styling to create clickable buttons that linked to each state's website for veteran benefits. The list of benefits can be seen on <https://salutingbenefits.com/national-benefits>, and the list of state benefits websites can be found on <https://salutingbenefits.com/state-benefits>. The other part of my internship project was working on the Saluting Jobs website, which was aimed to serve as a Job Board for veteran-related jobs. Before implementing a job board into the website, there were many steps that were needed to be taken before, which included much research into finding the right job board that would fit into the website. We got into contact with different job boards and tested out sandboxes to see which job board would fit the website the best. Though not fully conclusive, we were able to narrow it down to 2 job boards in the time we had. Additionally, many other sections on the <https://salutingjobs.com> website were created, with content as well as placeholders. Finally, the last task that I worked with was setting up social media accounts for each company, such as Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, LinkedIn, Google for Business, Calendly, and Gmail accounts for both companies.

Business Project Research

For this business project, there were many different questions that I was tasked to answer, especially since the work was divided amongst two websites. For Saluting Benefits, the primary question was to see which benefits would attract veterans the most, and what layout or presentation of the information would keep the viewers on the website. To answer this, rather than just going by intuition, we went to other websites that had similar information purposes and were doing well to see how they were able to keep viewers coming back. The biggest thing that we found was that we needed to keep the information in a way that would be easy for the user to find, such as grouping them into categories or having the state links separated alphabetically so a user can easily find them. For Saluting Jobs, the primary question was to see which job board would best support our view of the website. Particularly, we wanted to be able to filter so that only military jobs will show up. One of the limitations for this was the time constraint since sometimes, companies took time to get back to us, so we were not able to work with enough sandboxes to finalize a decisive choice on which job board could be implemented.

Business Project Key Learning/Recommendations

From the internship, one of the key takeaways that I learned was more about the veteran side of federal government aid. I came into the internship with not much knowledge about veteran benefits, but after researching more about them and working with them, I understood that computer science could be applied to almost any field, including the military. Additionally, I think that being able to use my knowledge in programming allowed me to see what I could do with it in developing real websites, such as CSS styling, as well as incorporating scripted features into the websites.

For my mentor, one thing that I would recommend would be to continue trying out sandboxes and to keep in touch with the company that you are sandboxing. In the event of any questions or confusion, you can contact that company and they should be able to clear that out for you to use your best judgment on selecting the job board for Saluting Jobs.

Annotated Bibliography

Child, Dave. "Veteran Benefit Cheat Sheet." *Cheatography*, cheatography.com/xfait/.

The website above served as a cheat sheet for a list of veteran benefits that many people were interested in. This website was also very important in the development of the Saluting Benefits website, which listed out all of the benefits on this website. Some important benefit categories on this cheat sheet including IT training, for jobs in the future, as well as the general product benefits such as discounts for computers.

"Take Online Courses. Earn College Credit. Research Schools, DEGREES & Careers."
Study.com | Take Online Courses. Earn College Credit. Research Schools, Degrees & Careers,
study.com/articles/careers_in_military_science.html.

This article has a list of popular careers for retiring veterans. This was very important in our research of job boards since a feature called backfilling allows us to outsource our jobs. One specific problem was to get specifically military-related jobs, and this article gave us an idea of what those jobs would be. Some jobs include Military Police, Truck Driver, Security Guards, etc.

Appendix

Websites:

- <https://salutingsuccess.com>
- <https://salutingbenefits.com>
- <https://salutingjobs.com>